(4) Ministry of Railways has also approached Ministry of Power, Ministry of Finance and Govt. of NCT, Delhi at various levels including that of Minister of Railways.

Railway Journey facility to Ex-M.L.As of M.P.

†1000. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has provided railway journey facility to ex-M.L.As through coupon system, after paying the Railway Board an advance amount of 2.5 crore rupees; if so, the reasons why the Railway Board has decided to discontinue this facility, while the State Government intend to continue the same; and

(b) whether the said facility would be restored to the ex-M.L.As before 1st April or whether another effective solution has been sought, to provide the railway journey facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The Central Railway Administration had issued coupons worth Rs. 92 lakhs only for use by ex-M.L.As of Madhya Pradesh from 1996 till May 1999, without any policy decision to that effect by the Railway Ministry.

The scheme of rail travel coupons entails huge additional railway expenditure like printing of thousands of Coupon Books every year; making arrangements for their supply, realisation of dues, keeping accountal of coupons surrendered at stations all over Indian Railways, granting refund, etc. It has been decided by Railway Board that the scheme shall not be available to ex-Members of any State Legislature with effect from 1.4.2000.

(b) It is not propose to restore this facility. State

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Governments have been advised to explore other alternatives, including cash payment to their ex-Members.

Expansion of Railways

†1001. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received applications from various States during 1999-2000 for expansion of Railways;

(b) if so, the number of applications received from Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka and other States; and

(c) what is the number of the applications on which some decision has been taken and stating the number of positive decisions and the number of cases lying pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Planning for Expansion of Railways is done in an integrated manner in a National perspective and not on state wise consideration. However, proposals relating to new Railway projects received from various states are taken due note of.

Following proposals have been received in 1999-2000 from the State Governments. Action taken on each proposal is given alongside.

State	Proposal	Action Taken
Bihar	Gauge conversion of Narkatiyaganj-Bhitiharwa Ashram	It has not been considered necessary to take up this project at present.
Bihar	Kiul-Nawada new line	It has not been considered necessary to take up this project at present.

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

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